

strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Destiny Bean for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all her future accomplishments.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 2, 2011

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, on October 26th I was unavoidably detained and missed rollcall vote No. 812. If present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote No. 812.

U.F. STUDENT BODY GOVERNMENT ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN RESOLUTION

HON. CLIFF STEARNS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 2, 2011

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the University of Florida's Student Body Government, and to submit for the record their resolution supporting the U.S. commitment to a negotiated settlement of Palestinian conflict through direct Israeli-Palestinian negotiations.

The University of Florida Student Government was established in 1909, and represents the interests of the student body. As representatives for the students of the University of Florida, this student government body has put forth Resolution 2011-138, which calls for the continuation of peaceful negotiations between Israel and the Palestinian Authority, and to oppose any attempt seeking a unilateral declaration of statehood from the United Nations.

The students of the University of Florida hereby resolve:

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE U.S. COMMITMENT TO A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT OF PALESTINIAN CONFLICT THROUGH DIRECT ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN NEGOTIATIONS, AND CALLING UPON THE UNITED STATES TO OPPOSE UNILATERAL PALESTINIAN EFFORTS OF DECLARING INDEPENDENCE IN THE UNITED NATIONS.

Whereas, a true and lasting peace between Israel and the Palestinian people can only be achieved through direct negotiations between two legitimate parties and the acceptance of Israel's right to exist; and

Whereas, direct negotiations between two legitimate parties to ensure an agreement that acknowledges both historical territorial claims to land while also taking into account the current demographic and security realities; and

Whereas, Hamas, an organization responsible for the death of hundreds of Israeli and American civilians, has been designated by the United States State Department as a Foreign Terrorist Organization and is in control of the Gaza strip; and

Whereas, Hamas has held merger talks with the Palestinian Authority and continues to forcefully reject the possibility of peace with Israel, and

Whereas, refusing to come to the table and negotiate despite President Obama's direct request for a meeting following the Israeli nine month settlement freeze, the Palestinian Authority is preventing any constructive dialogue from taking place that could eventually lead to the formation of a Palestinian state; and

Whereas, the Palestinian Authority attempting to gain full membership at the United Nations through a unilateral declaration of statehood is counterproductive to the peace process; and

Whereas, a poll done by the Palestinian Center for Public Opinion showed that eighty-three percent of Palestinians cited job creation as the most pressing issue, with only four percent citing UN recognition of Palestinian statehood as the most important; and

Whereas, of that same poll only forty percent of Palestinians think that the UN vote will actually help to bring about an independent Palestinian state; and

Whereas, the United States passed H. Res 268 and S. Bill 185 calling on the Administration to block the Palestinian Authority's efforts at the United Nations, and to cut foreign aid to the Palestinian Authority in the event of a unilateral declaration, and

Whereas, the Obama administration has publicly criticized the Palestinian Authority's push for an unsustainable unilateral declaration, then be it

Resolved That the University of Florida Student Senate, on behalf of the students of the University of Florida, join our elected officials in support of a peaceful, two-state solution through direct negotiations between the Palestinians and Israelis; and be it further

Resolved That the students of the University of Florida support a halt to any efforts for a unilateral declaration of statehood at the United Nations and that the Palestinian Authority terminates its association with Hamas, so that it may be considered a legitimate partner for peace.

RECOGNIZING U.S. ARMY 1ST LT. ASHLEY I. WHITE STUMPF

HON. JAMES B. RENACCI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 2, 2011

Mr. RENACCI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize U.S. Army 1st Lt. Ashley I. White Stumpf—a member of the North Carolina National Guard's 230th Brigade Support Battalion, 30th Heavy Brigade Combat Team. She was attached to a Joint Special Operations Task Force in Afghanistan when she and two Army Rangers were killed as enemy forces attacked her unit with an improvised explosive device.

Ashley was commissioned in the U.S. Army as a Medical Service Corps Officer after receiving a commission from Kent State University in 2009. After completing both the medical services officer basic course at Fort Sam Houston, Texas, and the U.S. Army basic airborne course at Fort Benning, Georgia, she volunteered to become a member of a new tactical force called Cultural Support Teams.

Cultural Support Teams highlight the importance and necessity of women on the battlefield today. Their primary task is to engage the female population in ways that would be culturally inappropriate if performed by a male service member. As a member of only the

second class of women to enter this program, Ashley was a trail-blazer. Cultural Support Team members assist in a variety of functions in Afghanistan, including medical programs, searches and seizures, humanitarian assistance, and civil-military operations. In support of these special Special Operations units, Ashley exposed herself to danger on a regular basis and has now become the first casualty in what the Army says is a new and vital wartime attempt to gain the trust of Afghan women. She will be remembered for her sacrifice for years to come.

Ashley's awards and decorations are many and include the Parachutist Badge, the Ohio Faithful Service Ribbon, the Armed Forces Reserve Medal, the Army Reserve Achievement Medal, and the National Defense Service Medal. She will be posthumously awarded the Bronze Star, the Purple Heart, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Afghanistan Campaign Medal, and the Combat Action Badge.

Lt. Col. David Hodne stated it well when he said, "Ashley was an incredibly talented officer and teammate who lost her life while committed to making a difference in our effort in Afghanistan. She demonstrated a level of quiet courage that set the example for others to follow, and we will never forget her sacrifice. Her family is in our thoughts and prayers."

A native of Alliance, Ohio, Ms. White Stumpf is survived by her husband Cpt. Jason Stumpf of Raeford, N.C., her parents Robert and Deborah White, twin sister Brittney and brother Josh, all of Alliance. Loved by friends, family and citizens across this nation, Ashley will remain a shining example of selfless sacrifice.

I honor Ashley's life, her service, and her memory. She will surely be missed by many, but she—along with all of our fallen heroes—will not be forgotten.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. W. TODD AKIN

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 2, 2011

Mr. AKIN. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 816 and 817, I was delayed and unable to vote. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on both.

DEAN ROGERS

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 2, 2011

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Dean Rogers for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Dean Rogers is a 8th grader at Drake Middle School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Dean Rogers is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.